

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting January 15, 2025

Members in Attendance

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)
Fr. Joy Adimakkeel
(Assoc)
Anna Damian

Marcel LeJeune
Matt Rice
Christina Robertson
Samantha Shepard

Taylor Schroll
Leanne Southerland

Members Absent

Michael Alexander (Pres)

Lorian Dusek

Donna Hanus

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm with evening prayer led by Marcel LeJeune.

Pastoral Council Secretary

Lis Soto was recognized for her many years of service to the Pastoral Council as the Council Secretary. Christina Robertson volunteered to take the role of Pastoral Council Secretary to record attendance and create minutes for each meeting.

Reflections on Pastoral Council Listening Conversations

Goal: Provide feedback to Fr. Brian and the council about the experiences of our parishioners and guests at St. Joseph.

- Concerns raised by older members about lack of traditional newsletters.
 - Discussion on the challenge of engaging older parishioners who do not use the internet.
 - Generational Preferences: Older members prefer physical newsletters while younger members and new parishioners value online engagement.
- Observations of mass attendance patterns and timings
 - Suggestion for better coordination between parishes on mass times.
 - Suggested staggering mass times at different parishes to accommodate diverse schedules.

Reflection on Christmas Services

Goal: Continue creating a place to meet, know, live, and share Jesus. Memorialize the “wins” to do them again and refine them for Ash Wednesday, Easter, etc.

- High attendance for both 4pm Masses - at children's choir mass at Christ the Good Shepherd Chapel and at mass at the main church.
- Positive feedback on parking assistance by Knights of Columbus and Boy Scouts.
- Noted issue of midnight mass attendance possibly affected by weather.

Updates of the Parish, Discipleship Process, School and Other Business

Goal: The pastoral council should be aware of key updates in the parish and school to carry out its purpose (and to listen well).

Father Brian reported the following:

- Increase in new parishioners and interest in OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)
- Need to prepare for increased OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) participation.
- Retirement of a long-term staff member, Pat Wiederhold
- Will conduct interviews for a new receptionist.
- Growth of Early Learning Center (ELC) from 37 to 60 children.
- Will address challenges with current restroom facilities in the Church building.
- Walking with Purpose program for women on Thursday evenings is well-received.

Nominations Committee

Goal: Two (to four) parish council members will volunteer to seek two new PC members so that we have 12 members by our March 19 meeting.

Anna Damian and Donna Hanus will lead this effort, but there will be discussion at the February meeting on what member characteristics are needed.

Statutes Committee

Goal: Two (to four) parish council members to work on and propose a new set of statutes by our March 19 meeting, following section 151.02 in "Book 1" of the Code of Particular Law - Diocese of Austin - Austin, TX.

Leanne Southerland and Mike Alexander will work on the new statutes.

Closing Prayer led by Father Brian

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

The next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by
Christina Robertson